8th July 1952]

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The minimum wage fixed previously was Rs. 28 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance and it was asked to be increased as it did not suffice to purchase the rationed articles. If the minimum wage is now Rs. 25 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance, do the Government consider that, by decreasing the pay by Rs. 3 the employees will be able to purchase the rationed articles? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is open to the municipalities to write to Government and fix the minimum wages and the Inspector of Local Boards will examine whether the municipalities can afford to pay the proposed wages to their menials."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" If in general practice the municipalities are paying more than the minimum wage, will the Government consider the desirability of fixing the minimum wage a little higher up? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The minimum wage was fixed only recently and the Government Order was published on the 29th March 1952."

Reconstitution of the village panchayats.

* 54 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri V. Gopala Gounder is not in his seat, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to reconstitute the village panchayats under the provisions of the Village Panchayats Act, 1950, this year, and if so, when the elections will be held; and

(*b*) if it is by General Election, is it on the basis of adult franchise?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Government propose to reconstitute the existing panchayats under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, after holding elections to them, which are expected to commence from September 1952.

" (*b*) Yes, the Assembly electoral rolls pertaining to the panchayat area will be the electoral rolls for panchayat elections also, with reference to section 12 of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950."

Report of the Special Officer for the development of Ramanathapuram district.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Special Officer for development work in Ramanathapuram district has submitted his report to the Government ; and

[8th July 1952

(b) if so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The report is under print and copies will be placed in the library of the Legislature in due course for information of the hon. Members."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are considering the report and whether they are going to implement any of the suggestions that have been made by the Special Officer? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In answer to question (b) the Hon. Chief Minister was pleased to say that a copy will be placed in the library of the Legislature. May I ask, Sir, whether copies will be supplied to the Members of this House? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I have said that it will be placed in the library of the Legislature in due course. If hon. Members want any further assistance in the matter, the Government will be very willing to help."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the report submitted by the Special Officer for development work in Ramanathapuram district includes Pudukkottai also? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can give notice of a separate question."

Sales tax on fish.

* 56 Q.—SRI C. H. KANARAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted fish catch including those cured in the fish-curing yard sold by fishermen from sales tax; and

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from fishermen's organization in the West Coast to the effect that the curers should be treated as producers of fish to be placed on a par with agricultural producers and therefore exempt from the sales tax and whether the Government have passed orders on these representations?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (a) The Government have not exempted fish including those cured in the fish-curing yards from sales tax. They have, however, revised the rate of taxation in respect of dealers in flowers, fish and mutton with effect from 1st April 1951, as shown below :—

(i) If the turnover of the dealer is not less than Rs. 10,000 per annum but does not exceed Rs. 15,000 per annum—Rs. 96 per annum;